



TESTIMONY
of the
CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE OF MUNICIPALITIES
to the
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

February 23, 2009

CCM is Connecticut's statewide association of towns and cities and the voice of local governments - your partners in governing Connecticut. Our members represent over 93% of Connecticut's population. We appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony to you on issues of concern to towns and cities.

CCM supports the following bills:

Proposed House Bill 5505 "An Act Concerning the Allocation of Certain Boating Fees"

- This proposal would increase boating fees payable to harbormasters by ten per cent and to redirect such increase to shoreline towns and to towns located on rivers that empty into Long Island Sound. CCM is supportive of this proposal that would serve to increase the funds available to towns who bear the environmental and enforcement burdens associated with the boating activity in the state.

Proposed Senate Bill 31 "An Act Appropriating Funds to the Underground Storage Tank Petroleum Clean-Up Account"

- This proposal would fund the Underground Storage Tank Petroleum Clean-Up Account to continue to fund projects that clean-up spills and address leaking underground storage tanks. Since its inception, this program has played a critical role in environmental clean-up and protection across Connecticut. Other proposals this year threaten to reduce the funding available for this program. In addition, this program has been able to be used by municipalities as a sort of insurance policy required by federal law. Continuing this Fund as a separate account from the General Fund and ensuring needed appropriations is very much needed.

These two proposals are important to municipalities and important to the environment. CCM urges the committee to favorably report these bills.

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If you have any questions, please contact Kachina Walsh-Weaver, Senior Legislative Associate of
via email kweaver@ccm-ct.org or via phone (203) 498-3026.